

---

# CLEISH & FOSSOWAY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

---

## Table Of Contents

A Word From The Minister	2
News from the Fossoway Session Clerk	3
Events	4
Notices	6
Your Church Needs You	7
Upcoming Events	8
Communication Information	9
Dates for the Diary	11

**Fossoway Sunday Worship 9.45am**  
**Cleish Sunday Worship 11.15am**  
**All welcome**

Interim Moderator: Rev Beverley Stevenson  
Email: [BStevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:BStevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
Tel: 07584 902508

Fossoway Church, situated in the Crook of Devon, and Cleish Church in Cleish, are very warm and welcoming places. Come and join us, we would love to meet you. All are welcome at any of our meetings and services.

See Communication Information for contact details.

Cleish Session Clerk: Christine Maclure

Fossoway Session Clerk: Anne McKay



## A Word From The Minister

7th November 2024.

Hello friends,

I was pleased that both Cleish & Fossoway Churches are sharing the content of their parish news.

As we move closer to Christmas and the end of 2024... our thoughts are drawn to wonder about what this new year might bring for us individually and as a Church community. We will be part of a much bigger united congregation and we will be closing 2 of our 5 buildings across Kinross-shire. Now I don't want to ignore the fact that these 2 buildings have seen many of its congregation and its leaders pass through their doors... in both happy and also sad times; Cleish & Portmoak, and of course we lament with the faithful members who worship there each week.

I am drawn to a few verses from Romans that I read this morning about God's gifts.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

We all have something special to bring, even if it doesn't always feel like it. Sometimes we can fall into comparing our gifts or downplaying them, but here's the thing: God gave each of us our own set of gifts, unique to us. Some are natural encouragers; others are strong leaders, while some show care through quiet acts of service. It's not about having one "big" gift; it's about using what we have, wherever we are.

I once heard someone say that if you want to see God's love in action, look at the variety in a church community. The teacher shares insight, the helper gives their time, and the encourager lifts spirits with a few kind words. Together, our gifts reflect different pieces of God's love. So, let's lean into these gifts. Instead of comparing or doubting, we can ask, "How can I use what I've been given?" Our efforts, however small, become a way of sharing God's love with those around us.

### Poem

*With hands that serve and words that cheer,*

*Each gift is given, purpose clear.*

*In teaching, helping, sharing grace,*

*We see your love in every place.*

*One heart, one voice, together strong,*

*In every gift, we all belong.*

*So let us use what we possess,*

*To bring the world your tenderness.*

My role as we move forward into 2025... with God's help will be to work with a newly formed vacancy committee to call a new full time Minister who will be based in Crook of Devon and work as part of a team ministry team of 2 full time ministers and a part time minister across the new united area of Kinross-shire.

My prayer is that you use the gifts you've been given and to see the value and the difference they can make. I urge you to use these gifts to encourage, serve, and uplift others.

May we use what we have with joy and sincerity, knowing that every offering, big or small, can show God's love.

Every blessing

Beverley. X

Rev. Beverley Stevenson

Tel no 07584 902508

Email [bstevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:bstevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## News from the Fossoway Session Clerk

8th November 2024

Dear friends

Not long after writing my piece for the last newsletter, I found myself in hospital and very grateful for many things. To name a few; the fact that I was not home alone when I had my accident, the excellent care I received from the NHS and that, for the most part, I am healing well. Without a doubt, I was incredibly lucky and felt very blessed by all the messages of support that I received. I cannot thank everyone enough. I have always been of the mind set that you should grasp opportunities as they arise, and my recent experience has only confirmed this belief as we never know what lies round the corner.

As I write this, I also find myself pausing to reflect on how much has changed over the last year in our church. We have worked closely with our friends at Cleish and have now shared many important events in the Christian calendar. As we approach the end of the year, we now look forward to joining with them for the Worship and Praise service on 22nd December, along with the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It is said that Christmas is a time for family so it is only fitting that we will be spending this time together as we look to build a new combined rural Christian family.

By the time you read this, the vote regarding the Union of the Kinross-shire churches will have taken place and we will all now be contemplating what will happen in 2025. It is said that change is inevitable, that change brings opportunity and that progress is impossible without change. I hope that all the congregations voted in favour of the union as all four Kirk Sessions believed it to be the way forward. While all the finer details of the union will not be finalised until early next year, the Kirk Session see this as an opportunity for us all to consider what we may wish to do differently in the service of God and the Church. It may be time to try something different, therefore take time to reflect on your strengths and, with God's guidance, think about what you could do going forward. I know I certainly am.

Yours in faith

Anne McKay

Fossoway Session Clerk

## Events

### *Harvest Festival at Fossoway Church*

At the joint Cleish & Fossoway Harvest Festival service we not only celebrated the harvest but the service of three Fossoway Elders: Willie Black, Donald Brown and Alan Harper collectively have over 125 years of service. Bev presented them with long service certificates and bibles. Janet Harper accepted on behalf of Alan.



Also at this service was a pumpkin decoration competition which received over 20 entries. The categories were “funniest”, ‘most original’ and ‘prettiest’. The worthy winners (left to right in the photograph on the right) were

Most Original - Fossoway Creative Crafters

Funniest - Linda Thompson

Prettiest - Sarah Kendrick





### ***Cleish Church Remembrance Sunday and Congregational Lunch***

On Sunday the 10th of November the Cleish congregation gathered to remember the fallen since the First World War. During the service everyone moved outside to the War memorial for the two minute silence and to hear a reading of the poem For The Fallen, by the poet Lawrence Binyon. It contains the memorable lines "At the going down of the sun, and in the morning we will remember them".

After the service, Cleish was joined by members of Fossoway congregation to enjoy a lunch and fellowship in the village hall. Various soups were on offer, including amongst others, Cullen Skink and Chicken broth, followed by delicious puddings of sticky toffee, plum crumble and rice pudding.

These events provide a wonderful opportunity for the two congregations to get to know each other and share fellowship.

A collection was taken at the door and raised over £275 for The Armed Forces charity SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association).



## Notices

### Creche available every Sunday @ Fossoway

Please bring your baby/toddler along to the service. After the hymn following the All Age Talk, our creche volunteers will be happy to take them out to play in the hall.

### Not getting the weekly notices by email?

Drop an email to Anne at [annemckay90@gmail.com](mailto:annemckay90@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list.

### YOUTH DROP IN @ FOSSOWAY With KYTHE Every Thursday during Term

Come along it's a space to be, play games, pool table, football table, snacks and good chats!

For all young people aged 11-19yrs old.

Completely free! £

**6pm - 8pm**

Please check the KYTHE Facebook page and Instagram account for more details and up to date information.

### Join us for a cuppa after the Cleish or Fossoway services

Feel free to stay awhile to catch up with folks over tea/coffee and a biscuit in the hall.



Please note that the last **Youth Drop In** and **Refresh** sessions before Christmas will be on the 12th of December.

The **Refresh** Christmas Party is on the 12th of December, 2 - 4pm. Remember to wear your Christmas jumper. **Refresh** returns on the 9th of January.



Thursday 2pm - 4pm Fossoway Church Hall

Come along to the Church Hall on a Thursday afternoon for a tea or coffee and some delicious home baked cakes. Donations welcome.

It's a great chance to have a chat and a laugh, catch up with old friends, or meet some new ones.

**Open to all** - you don't have to be a church member to attend.

Scottish Charity Number SC013157




## Your Church Needs You

**YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU**

Our church community thrives through the dedication and participation of its members. We believe that every individual has a unique contribution to make. Whether it's through volunteering, attending services, or participating in community outreach programs, your involvement is crucial. We invite you to lend your time, skills, and passion to help us grow together. By working hand in hand, we can strengthen our community bonds and support each other in faith and friendship. Let's make a difference together!

Get involved and help!



We need volunteers for the new Working Groups, Refresh, Sunday teas, the Welcome Team, the Finance Group, the Property Group etc ..... How can the Church use your talents?

As you may know we have six new working groups. You are invited to join one of the groups and all would be very pleased to hear from you.

They groups are...

- ✧ Exploring Faith
- ✧ Sharing
- ✧ Communication
- ✧ Outreach
- ✧ Youth
- ✧ Mission

Details of the remits for each are available from the group leaders, Beverley Stevenson or Anne McKay.

To start things off here is an article from the Sharing group leader Debbie Hill.

### The Sharing Group

#### Sharing and Caring

- ★ Church flowers are distributed each week to a member of the congregation or community to show our love and support at special or difficult times. Thank you to Suzie Wilks who organises the rota for flower donations. If you know of someone who might need/appreciate this token of our care do let us know.
- ★ We have a Pastoral Group to visit church members who are not able to attend church services on a regular basis. Again do let us know if you know someone who would appreciate a pastoral visit.
- ★ Fairtrade - Karena Jarvie visits on the first Sunday of each month with a Fairtrade stall. Fair-trade goods promote fair prices for farmers in the global south. Please continue to buy from her stall and buy Fairtrade goods in shops. It does make a difference.
- ★ Gillian Stuart has been attending the Kinross-shire Climate Cafe, a group focusing on climate change, its effects on the environment and society, and how we could best adapt or minimise the negative effects. Ask her for the latest updates from this group.
- ★ Christmas retiral offerings at the Christmas Eve services will go to The Brain Tumour Charity. Please support generously.

#### Sharing and Growing in Faith

- ★ House Group generally meets on a Thursday evening at 7.30. We are currently using resources from 24-7Prayer, The God Story by Alain Emerson & Adam Cox; Encountering unfailing love in the unfolding narrative of Scripture. We've just completed chapter 1, The Origin, which helped us to consider and reflect upon God's call upon our lives in light of the three elements of our original design: relationship with God; relationship with others; relationship with and stewarding creation. Let me know if you'd like to join us or know more.



Upcoming Events

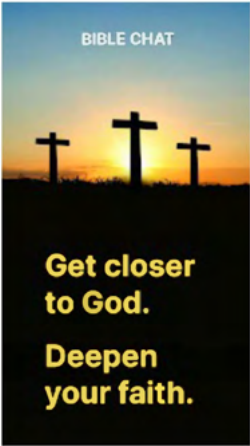
4 weeks of vestry Bible Chat at Fossoway  
....dates and times.

Tuesday's 10th ,17th, 24th  
September & 1st Oct  
@ 10:30am till Noon.



Thursday's 7th, 14th,  
21st, 28th November  
@ 10:30am till Noon,

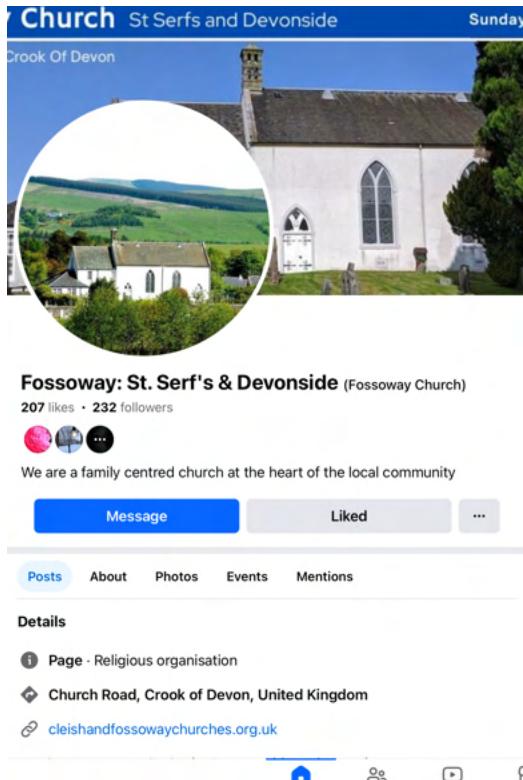
Why not come and join us...





## Communication Information

The newsletter is available on line at [cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk](http://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk) and by email.



Fossoway Church also has a Facebook page where you can find more information about the church, including links to the Sunday services available on YouTube.

### Elizabeth Wilkie Hall Bookings (Fossoway Church)

If you wish to book our hall or meeting rooms please contact Mrs Eileen Black on 01259 742046.

All are welcome at any of our meetings and services. If you would like any more information please contact Anne McKay [annemckay90@gmail.com](mailto:annemckay90@gmail.com).

### Fossoway House Group

Our House Group meets every Thursday evening at 7.30pm. For more details please contact Debbie Hill.

## Contact Information

Contact	Email or Web Address	Telephone Number
Interim Moderator Rev Beverley Stevenson	<a href="mailto:bstevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk">bstevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>	07584 902508
Fossoway Session Clerk Anne McKay	<a href="mailto:annemckay90@gmail.com">annemckay90@gmail.com</a>	07766 418016
Cleish Session Clerk Christine Maclure	<a href="mailto:maclure19@gmail.com">maclure19@gmail.com</a>	07704 884584
Newsletter Editor Donna McBain	<a href="mailto:fossowaynewslettereditor@cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk">fossowaynewslettereditor@cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk</a>	
Website	<a href="https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk">https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk</a>	
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064524469286">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064524469286</a>	

## Elizabeth Wilkie Hall Groups & Events

ORGANISATION/EVENT	TIME	CONTACT
<b>Fossoway Creative Crafters</b>	Mondays 6.30pm - 8.30pm	<a href="mailto:fossowaycreativecrafters@gmail.com">fossowaycreativecrafters@gmail.com</a> Fossoway Creative Crafters on Facebook
<b>Fossoway Film Evening</b>	1st Friday of the month, 7.30pm	See website or Facebook for film details
<b>The Fossoway Board Games Night</b>	Fortnightly on Thursdays 6.30 - 7.30pm	See website or Facebook for details
<b>Fossoway Babies &amp; Toddlers Group</b>	Fridays 9.30 - 11.30am Join us for snacks, play and a blether.	Janet Harper Fossoway Toddler Group on Facebook
<b>Refresh with tea, coffee, cakes &amp; company</b>	Thursdays 2.00 - 4.00pm (last one of 2024 is 12th December, returning 9th of January)	Delicious home baking, tea and coffee. All are welcome.
<b>Fossoway Youth Group</b>	New Term-Time Weekly Drop In: Every Thursday 6 - 8pm.  Monthly: 2nd Sunday of each month 7 - 8:30pm.  Come along; it's a space for playing games, with pool and foosball tables, snacks and good chat!  For all young people aged 11-19 years old. Completely free! £0!	

## Dates for the Diary

Updates and changes to the dates below can be found on our church website

<https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk>

Saturday 23rd 1 - 4pm, Christmas Fayre	Fossoway Church
1st December - First Sunday in Advent	Fossoway Church at 9.45am & Cleish Church at 11.15am. Worship led by Rev Christine Sime.
Friday 6th December at 7.30pm - Film Night	Elizabeth Wilkie Hall, Fossoway Church "It's a Wonderful Life"
Saturday 7th December 3 - 4pm Singalong at Christmas	Fossoway Church
8th December - Second Sunday in Advent	Fossoway Church at 9.45am & Cleish Church at 11.15am. Worship led by Rev Christine Sime.
Thursday 19th December at 10am Fossoway Primary School Christmas Service	Fossoway Church. All welcome.
15th December - Third Sunday in Advent	Fossoway Church at 9.45am & Cleish Church at 11.15am. Worship led by Rev Christine Sime.
22nd December at 11.15am - Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship and Praise Service	Joint Cleish & Fossoway Service at Cleish Church.
Tuesday 24th December at 5pm Family Christmas Eve Service	Fossoway Church
Tuesday 24th December at 11pm Watchnight Service	Joint Cleish & Fossoway Service at Fossoway Church - Carols from 11pm, service starts at 11.15pm
Wednesday 25th December at 11.15am Christmas Day Family Service	Joint Cleish & Fossoway Service at Cleish Church
29th December at 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship	Fossoway Church
29th December at 11.15am Thanksgiving Service for the life and work of Cleish Church	Cleish Church